



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/055,836	01/23/2002	Richard J. Olson	S63.2-10059	7864
490	7590	08/09/2005	EXAMINER	
VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS, P.A. 6109 BLUE CIRCLE DRIVE SUITE 2000 MINNETONKA, MN 55343-9185			NGUYEN, VI X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/055,836	Applicant(s) OLSON, RICHARD J. C	
	Examiner Victor X. Nguyen	Art Unit 3731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23,25-27,29 and 33-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23,25-27,29 and 33-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 23,25-26,29,33-36 and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Leschinsky (6,074,398).

Leschinsky discloses in figs.3-5, a stent delivery catheter system is used in PTCA procedures having the limitations as recited in the above listed claims, including: a catheter (10) defines a guide wire lumen. A stent (30) is disposed about at least a portion of the distal region of the catheter, where the distal region of the catheter body and the stent define a first diameter region, a second diameter region of the assembly, and where a removable loading tool (42) is disposed about at least a portion of the distal region of the catheter and at least a portion of the proximal region of the catheter, where the tool body has a hollow chamber, and where the chamber has an inner surface region (70) which further defines a substantially hollow neck portion, where the neck portion comprises a diameter that is tapering from the inner diameter of the first portion to the inner diameter of the second portion (as best seen in fig. 3), and where the hollow chamber defines a first portion containing the first diameter region and where a second portion contains the second diameter region, and where the first opening has a diameter sufficient to allow passage of the catheter assembly having the stent (30) mounted thereon.

Art Unit: 3731

Regarding claims 25-26, Leschinsky discloses the tool body (42) is arranged to protect the stent from undersired damage during the loading a guidewire (58) into the guide wire lumen.

Regarding claims 33-36 and 38-39, Leschinsky discloses the tool body (42) is constructed from at least one material of the group consisting of metal (see col. 3, lines 30-36), and where the inner surface region (70) corresponds to at least the portion of the chamber comprising a polymer material

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 27 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Leschinsky (6,074,398) in view of Guruwaiya et al (6,251,136).

Leschinsky discloses the invention substantially as recited in the claims, but Leschinsky does not disclose the stent comprises a coating which is drug.

Guruwaiya et al teach the stent comprises a coating which is drug (see col. 1, lines 37-44 and col. 3, lines 24-30).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Leschinsky by constructing the stent comprises a coating which is drug as taught by Guruwaiya in order to provide a stent capable of both supporting adequate mechanical loads as well delivering drugs therapy.

Claims 40-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Leschinsky. Leschinsky discloses the invention substantially as recited in the claims, but Leschinsky is silent regarding the inner diameter of the first portion of the inner surface region is about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm. It would have been obvious matter of design choice to modify the inner diameter of the first portion of the inner surface region is about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re.Aller, 220F, 2d 454, 105 USPQ 233.

Furthermore, Leschinsky is silent regarding the inner diameter of the second portion of the inner surface region is about 0.2 mm to about 4.9 mm. It would have been obvious matter of design choice to modify the inner diameter of the second portion of the inner surface region is about 0.2 mm to about 4.9 mm, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re.Aller, 220F, 2d 454, 105 USPQ 233.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see "REMARKS", filed May 6, 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 23,25-26,29,33-36 and 38-39 under 102 (b) with US. Patent No. 6,123,712 to Di Caprio et al. have been considered and are persuasive. Di Caprio does not disclose a hollow chamber that has an inner surface which further defines a neck region having a tapering diameter. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the patent described above.

Art Unit: 3731

Applicant is asked to please refer to the modified prior art rejection above where examiner addresses applicant's concerns regarding prior art rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anh Tuan Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VYBUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Victor X Nguyen
Examiner
Art Unit 3731

Vn *VN*
5/31/2005

